Goitre and Iodine deficiency diseases

540. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Goitre and Iodine deficiency disorder/diseases are on the rise in the country;

(b) if so, the reasons for the rise of these diseases; and

(c) the steps taken to eradicate these diseases?

THE MINSITER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. R. ANTULAY): (a) and (b) The number of Goitre and other Iodine Deficiency Disorders is increasing in view of the continuous identification of new goitre endemic areas in the country;

(c) In order to control Iodine Deficiency Disorders the Government is implementing the scheme of Universal Iodidation of salt under the National Iodine Deficiency Disorders Control Programme. Under this programme, funds are being provided to the States/ Union Territorites for the following activities:

(a) Establishment of IOD Control Cell.

(b) Publicity and Health Education.

(c) Conducting IOD Surcys/re-surveys.

(d) Establishment of IOD monitoring Laboratory.

(e) Monitoring the quality of iodised salt.

Medical fitness of Army Officials

541. SHRI VIRENDRA KATARIA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Army Medical Corps have prepared a Medical Report revealing that many of the top ranking army officials fall in low medical category;

(b) if so, the reasons for their not being medically fit; and

(c) the action proposed to be taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINSITER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE AND DEPTT. OF DEFENCE RESEARCH & DEVELOPMENT) SHRI MALIKARJUN) (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Transportation of Iodised Salt in open wagons

542. SHRI V. HANUMANTHA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the potency of Iodine is lost when the iodised salt is transported in open wagons in Railways;

(b) whether it is also a fact that there is a three month gap in making an indent for a wagon and actually getting it for transfer of salt; and

(c) if so, what steps Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SURESH KALMADI): (a) to (c) There may be some transit losses in the iodine content of iodised salt when transported in open wagons but there are safe-guards provided as the level of iodisation fixed at manufacturing end is 30 parts per million whereas the level required at the consuming end is only 15 parts per million. Besides, iodised salt is required